GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1100
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
WELFARE SCHEMES FOR INDIA-BOUND NRIs
Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce some welfare schemes for the India-bound Non Resident Indians (NRIs);

(b) if so, whether the modalities of such schemes have been worked out;

(c) if so, the details of such schemes; and

(d) the time by which such schemes are likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (d): There is no proposal to introduce a welfare scheme for India-bound Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) under consideration of the Government at present. However, an important constituent of the NRIs is the Overseas Indian Workers whose emigration is regulated under the Emigration Act 1983. There are about 4.5 million such workers mostly in the Gulf countries and Malaysia. The Government is considering a proposal to establish a welfare fund for the benefit of such workers. The Fund envisages provision of welfare services to the emigrants at all stages − financial support to meet emigration expenses at the pre-emigration stage, need based on site welfare during their stay abroad and need based rehabilitation services after their return to India. The Welfare Fund is likely to be established during the financial year 2008-09.